

THE JACOBS REPORT

**GILDA Z. JACOBS
MICHIGAN SENATE
Assistant Democratic Floor Leader
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

**For Immediate Release
October 29, 2004**

**Contact: Matt Levin
(517) 373-7888**

SENATE: MODEST LAME DUCK AGENDA

The office of Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Wyoming) reported this week that a vote on sending a term limit extension proposal to a future ballot is not on the Senate's lame duck agenda.

"We're not doing term limits," said Sikkema Press Secretary Ari Adler. "Taking up a legislative ballot initiative is like the kiss of death to begin with. To take it up during lame duck makes even less sense."

While Sikkema is personally supportive of extending term limits to 12 years in the House and 12 years in the Senate, Adler said that the consensus belief is that "citizens should take us there, not because the Legislature is saying it ought to be that way."

Despite the Senate's lack of interest in taking up the issue, the House still might push for a vote on some type of term limits ballot proposal. Proponents have discussed tying a term-limit extension bill to a legislative pay cut or even a part-time Legislature.

Tax restructuring, a subject Gov. Jennifer Granholm wanted to advance before the freshman class of '05 joins the House, is also off the table--until next year.

The Senate's nine-day lame duck agenda will be limited to cleaning up the identity theft bill package, the lead package and HJR Z: a House-passed initiative that constitutionally locks restricted natural resources funds from being raided to balance the General Fund.

Racinos may also be on the agenda, depending on the Election Day fate of Proposal 1.

GRANHOLM MOVES TO LIMIT SPENDING

This week, Governor Granholm issued three executive directives that continue state spending constraints over Executive Branch departmental and agency expenditures. The directives focus on saving money by limiting non-essential travel, restricting the purchase of non-essential supplies, and restricting the creation of new positions or hiring of new employees.

"The sole impetus behind these directives continues to be saving money," Granholm said. "In these tough economic times we must use every tax dollar efficiently and effectively. Fiscal responsibility remains a top priority. We were able to save millions of dollars in the last fiscal year, and we will continue to maintain tight fiscal discipline this year as well."

The directives are effective immediately and will remain in effect until the end of the current fiscal year, September 30, 2005. Each directive is summarized as follows:

- Executive Directive 2004 – 7: Restrictions on Non-Essential Travel. This directive includes a two-fold plan to allow only essential travel expenses by 1) placing a moratorium on out-of-state travel, subject to limited exceptions and 2) restricting in-state travel. Web-conferencing, videoconferencing, and teleconferencing are encouraged as an alternative to travel wherever possible.

• Executive Directive 2004 – 8: Restrictions on Purchase of Non-Essential Supplies, Materials, Equipment, Printing or Other Products. Under this directive, the purchase of, or contracting for, all supplies, materials, equipments, printing, or other products financed with state funds should be deferred and limited to only the most essential requirements. Each department is given the flexibility to reduce expenditures in a way that works best for the department. However, if the Department of Management and Budget (DMB) or the State Budget Office does not see demonstrable progress, DMB is required to rescind delegated purchasing authority.

• Executive Directive 2004 – 9: Restrictions on Creation of New Positions, Hiring of Employees, and Acquisition of Contractual Services. This directive limits the creation of new positions, the hiring of new employees, and the acquisition of contracts for services financed with state funds to only the most essential requirements. Each department is given flexibility to meet staffing needs in a way that works best for the department. The Directive also gives the Office of the State Employer new tools to restrict the outsourcing of state work to temporary contractors.

“While resources are already scarce, and greater efficiencies in the administrative operations of state departments and agencies have already been achieved, it is essential we continue our efforts to reduce costs and curtail spending,” Granholm said. “The sacrifices and hard-work of our state employees is recognized, and greatly appreciated.”

MORE INFO: [MiRx](#) PRESCRIPTION SAVINGS PROGRAM

In an effort to make prescription medicines more accessible and more affordable for our most vulnerable citizens, the state of Michigan and Governor Jennifer Granholm are proud to present the MiRx Card.

With the use of this new prescription drug discount card, uninsured and under insured Michigan residents will be able to get their prescription medication for less money at participating pharmacies. The MiRx Card is designed only for Michigan residents who do not have prescription drug coverage.

Beneficiaries of the MiRx Card program will save as much as 20 percent off the retail prices they would normally pay as a cash customer.

The MiRx Card program is free. There is no cost for the card. There is no cost to enroll in the program. And, the MiRx Card is easy to use. MiRx Card holders will take their prescription and their MiRx card to their local participating pharmacy. The pharmacist will fill the prescription and charge the MiRx discounted price.

There is no age limit to participate in the MiRx Card program. When individuals fill out the application, they should include all eligible members of their family or household. Once your application is completed and processed, eligible applicants will receive their own MiRx card in the mail within two weeks along with a list of participating pharmacies in their area.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a resident of the State of Michigan;
- Have no other prescription drug coverage;
- Have an income level at or below the state's median income level:

Size of Family Unit MI Median Income

1	\$27,930
2	\$37,470
3	\$47,010
4	\$56,550
5	\$66,090
6	\$75,630
7	\$85,170
8	\$94,050

You may download a PDF copy of the MiRx card application and mail it to the address on the application or you can call 1-866-755-6479 and have an application mailed to your home.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MiRx_brochure_150dpi_103392_7.pdf

List of participating pharmacies in PDF format. The list is organized alphabetically by city name. To find a pharmacy in your area, scroll down to your city.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/CVS_update_9_17_04_103385_7.pdf

TECHNOLOGY TRI-CORRIDOR GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation released Tuesday the requests for proposals for the \$26.5 million in Technology Tri-Corridor grants available for the current fiscal year.

The current grants are primarily for life sciences applications, but the MEDC will be looking for technology that could also have application in the automotive or homeland security fields, the two other parts of the Technology Tri-Corridor.

Applications for the grants are posted at www.medc.michigan.org/ttc/ and are only accepted online. The applications are tentatively due March 9 with grants to be announced in June.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GERONTOLOGY PANEL DISCUSSION

Monday, November 8, 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Botsford Commons Community

Town Commons Dining Room

21300 Archwood Circle

Farmington Hills

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

####

Matthew J. Levin
Legislative Director

Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-7888
mlevin@senate.michigan.gov